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WINTER RECORDS OF THE PAINTED LADY BUTTERFLY, CYNTHIA CARDUI L. — Whether the painted lady is able to sometimes overwinter in the south of England is difficult to prove unless "hibernating" individuals are found alive in late winter. To my knowledge this has never been recorded and the pattern of occurrence of the few mid-winter records suggest that these butterflies may have been primary immigrants. Over the Christmas and New Year period of 1987/88 there have been, so far, eighteen records of the painted lady:

CORNWALL E. Portwrinkle, 25.12 (S. Madge); St Clear, 25.12 (P. J. Reay); Siblyback Reservoir, 31.12.87 (D. & G. Conway); Portscatho, 6.1.88 (G. Jackson); Salter Mill, Carr Green, 7.1.88 (S. Madge); Portholland 16.1.88 (R. Lane).

CORNWALL W. Phillack, Hayle, "late December" (L. P. Williams); Marazion, 7.1.88 (C. C. Barnard).

DEVON S. Devonport, 23.12 (A. R. Pease); Ernsettle, Plymouth, 24.12 (R. W. Gould); Plymouth, 25.12, two, and one, 5.2.88 (A. Archer-Lock).

DORSET. Worbarrow Bay, 25.12; Studland, 31.12, two, (K. N. Baskcomb).

SUSSEX E. Lewes, 20.12; Brighton, 22.12 (R. Leverton per C. R. Pratt).

Mr. Penhallurick, of the Truro Museum, has traced a further, early record — January 17th. 1936 St. Marys, Isles of Scilly (R. Trotter), and in 1966 there were three early records of the painted lady in Cornwall: February 2nd. Dowderry (S. C. Madge); February 6th. Mevagissey (Unknown) and February 26th. Pendower (R. D. Penhallurick).

R. F. Bretherton tells me that he has been unable to trace any December records for the painted lady in the British Isles, apart from a single record for 6.12.1979 (Archer-Lock, *Ent. Rec.* 92: 87), at least since 1940, but that in 1952 there was a substantial early immigration of Lepidoptera between February 21st. and

March 17th., that included no less than 482 painted ladies, with 14 on March 5th. at Redruth, Cornwall (W. J. Tremewan).

Records of the Caradon Field and Natural History Club show a pattern of late individuals of the painted lady into early November in south-east Cornwall, with the latest being on November 29th 1986.

Mr. Bretherton is of the opinion that following the spell of south-westerly winds and mild temperatures over Western Europe from mid December over Christmas 1987, long-distance migrants such as the painted lady are much more likely to be genuine immigrants from south-west Europe or North Africa rather than to have survived the rather cold late November/early December spell that was experienced in southern Britain a few weeks previously. S. C. MADGE 2 Church Row, Sheviock, Torpoint, Cornwall PL11 3EH. (NOTE: if readers have any further records of either *cardui* or any other lepidopteron over this period, would they please send their records to R. F. Bretherton as soon as possible — Ed.)

HAIRSTREAK ROOSTING HABITS. — While collecting in northern Greece end July 1987 along the Greco-Bulgarian border, we entered a dense stretch of deciduous forest with a very rich undergrowth. The weather was humid and the temperature was about 46° centigrade, making the situation almost unbearable. From about 6pm to 7.30pm we noticed that hordes of both male and female *Quercusia quercus* L. descended from the tall trees and took roosting positions on the undergrowth at no more than one metre off the ground. It was also rewarding to discover amongst them a few *Thecla betulae* L., both male and female. The latter barely enters into Greece along its northern borders and any record of it from this country is worth mentioning. — JOHN G. COUTSIS, 4 Glykonos Street, Athens 10675, Greece. NIKOS GHAVALAS, 30 Karaoli-Dhimitriou Street, Athens 12461, Greece.

CATOCALA NUPTA L., THE RED UNDERWING, (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE) IN CUMBRIA — On the morning of 5.x.1987 I found a perfect, male red underwing in my m.v. trap, which is situated under the white walls of a house, set in thick, deciduous and coniferous woodland. This is the first *nupta* seen here in 20 years of light trapping, during which time 401 species of macrolepidoptera have been recorded.

The only original record for this species is Cumbria (formerly Cumberland and Westmorland) is given by Stephens (1829) *Illustrations of British Entomology* 3:133 as “. . . Davidson Bank [Carlisle district] — T. C. Heysham Esq. . . .”. I am grateful to Dr. N. L. Birkett for his comments and help in tracing this record. J. BRIGGS, Frimley House, Deepdale Close, Slackhead, Milnthorpe, Cumbria.